

2021 Funding Report



**Office of
U.S. Representative
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell**

Florida's 26th Congressional District

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Dear Friends,

With so much of everyone's attention these days focused on the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis, I wanted to make sure that you were aware of other important legislation we're also working in Congress. Specifically, I wanted to tell you about funding for important federal programs that I have been fighting for.

Each year, Congress goes through a process to determine how to allocate, or "appropriate," federal funds across the entire federal government. Each Member of Congress advocates for a number of programs that are important for their district, and I wanted to highlight a handful of my priorities in the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills for you here. While this list is not exhaustive of all issues important to FL-26, it does reflect many of the issues I hear about from constituents frequently.

I am very excited about these successes, but the work is not done. The Senate needs to pass these funding provisions, and I am continuously putting on the pressure so that South Florida can benefit from these important programs.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Debbie', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right.

Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Florida's 26th District

Health Care

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell supported providing \$1.65 billion in funding for Community Health Centers. These centers play a crucial role in providing high quality healthcare services in underserved areas to all patients, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

HIV/AIDS: The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a top concern for the Miami area, which has the highest rate of new diagnoses in the country. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for an increase in funding to combat HIV/AIDS, including \$3.1 billion in HIV/AIDS research and \$2.4 billion for the Ryan White program, which plays a critical role in providing services to those living with HIV/AIDS in South Florida and around the country.

DIABETES: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for an increase in funding to \$178.5 million for Diabetes prevention and treatment programs, and educational activities and community outreach. Additionally, she supported an \$18 million increase in last year's enacted funding level for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. This Institute conducts and supports medical research and research training for diabetes and other endocrine diseases.

E-CIGARETTES: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell secured language in the bill that instructs the FDA to remove e-cigarettes from the marketplace that do not serve as a cessation device. 13 Members of Congress supported Rep. Mucarsel-Powell in her advocacy for this provision.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS: Access to nutritious foods is essential for healthy communities. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell joined many of her colleagues in successfully advocating for robust funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as nutrition programs for pregnant women, new moms, school-aged children, and senior citizens.

SUICIDE PREVENTION, MENTAL ILLNESS, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Rep. Mucarsel-Powell successfully advocated for increased funding of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the bill, securing \$96 million above last year's enacted level. This funding is crucial for states' substance use and mental illness treatment, prevention, and recovery systems. Currently, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in our nation. The national COVID-19 crisis will certainly contribute to growth in the number of Americans needing urgent care to address mental health needs, including suicidal behavior.

Environment

THE EVERGLADES: For the second year in a row, Rep. Mucarsel-Powell secured unprecedented funding levels for Everglades Restoration. This year, the bill includes \$250 million, which is \$50 higher than last year. Furthermore, by working with her colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, she successfully pressed for the “new start” requirements to be eliminated, putting restoration projects on a faster path for completion.

CORAL: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell led the charge to increase funding for the federal coral program. She secured a \$4.5 million increase to bring the total funding to \$34 million, which will help fund restoration efforts that are crucial to saving our reefs, preserving our ecosystem, and supporting our local economy.

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE: Repairing our sewage systems are expensive, and that is why Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocates for additional funding whenever she can. She led her colleagues in advocating for and securing high levels of funding for several wastewater infrastructure programs, including the Army Corps of Engineers program that reimburses municipalities in the Florida Keys for costs incurred during the transition from septic to sewer, known as the Florida

Keys Water Quality Improvement Program.

REDUCING EMISSIONS: Recognizing that South Florida is ground zero for climate change, Rep. Mucarsel-Powell is a staunch supporter of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop clean, affordable energy solutions. She joined her colleagues in advocating for strong funding for these federal programs and secured approximately \$30 billion for these crucial efforts.

Civil Rights

POLICE REFORM: Following the nation’s cries for reform in the way communities are policed, especially communities of color, Rep. Mucarsel-Powell worked to ensure that programs focused on police accountability and equity were prioritized and funded. She worked with her colleagues to secure \$400 million in funding for police departments to conduct independent investigations and \$128 million in grants to promote community-police relations and train police departments in de-escalation techniques, proper use of force, and ending racial profiling. Importantly, Rep. Mucarsel-Powell also supported \$4 million to promote civilian review boards, like those recently discussed in Miami-Dade County.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(VAWA) PROGRAMS: VAWA programs provide important resources to women and children in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault often look to these programs for help during and after extremely traumatic experiences. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for increased funding and secured \$525 million to support these vital programs for women and children in South Florida.

LGBTQ+ PROTECTIONS: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the LGBTQ+ community in the fight for equality. She worked to include language in the bill that blocks the Administration's discrimination in health care, health education programs, and housing programs against LGBTQ individuals.

FIREARM SAFETY AND PROTECTING

OUR CHILDREN: Preventing gun violence and ending school shootings is a top reason Rep. Mucarsel-Powell ran for office. She advocated for and secured significant funding to federal agencies to conduct firearm background checks and enforce safe gun laws. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell also fought for increased funding to school security programs and obtained \$140 million for programs to keep our children safe at school. Additionally, Rep. Mucarsel-Powell secured \$50 million to research

and prevent gun violence, a 100% increase from 2020.

Economic Opportunity

HOUSING: As Miami-Dade and Monroe County are increasingly experiencing an affordable housing crisis, Rep. Mucarsel-Powell led a group of over 130 bipartisan members advocating for affordable housing funding for the NeighborWorks program, securing over \$508.5 million for housing development and mortgage and rental assistance.

SECTION 8 HOUSING: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for increased funding for Section 8 Rental Assistance programs in the bill, \$2.8 billion above last year's enacted level. These programs support rental housing for over three million low-income households each year, over half of whom are elderly or disabled.

TRANSIT: Too many people in South Florida are frustrated every day by slow traffic, congestion, and inadequate transit options. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell supported the high funding level of \$18.9 billion for the Federal Transit Administration, which provides resources to build out and repair transit systems.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG): Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for increased funding of the

CDBG program in this bill, \$100 million above last year's enacted level. CDBG funds local community development activities to provide affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, and infrastructure development.

WORKFORCE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT: With the labor market constantly evolving, workforce training is more crucial now than ever. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for increased funding for programs to train our workforce and provide opportunities to those in underserved areas and helped secure over \$4 billion for these programs.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell led a call for expanded access to resources for minority- and women-owned business, specifically in diverse communities of color. The bill increased funding for these programs, which create and sustain good jobs in our communities and work to give equal opportunities to minority entrepreneurs.

National Security

PAYING OUR SERVICEMEMBERS: Our brave servicemembers give so much to protect our American way of life; they deserve to be paid at a rate that meets their needs. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell strongly supported and secured a 3%

pay raise for members of the United States military.

VETERANS: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell pushed for increased funding for Veterans Medical Care, helping secure \$90 billion in the final package. This includes funding for a Veteran's Crisis Line to help our veterans experiencing mental health distress, over \$840 million for medical and prosthetic research, and significant funding to research traumatic brain injuries.

ELECTION SECURITY: Securing Florida's 2020 elections from improper interference is a top priority for Rep. Mucarsel-Powell. She advocated for \$500 million in election security grants to help states like Florida prepare for the upcoming elections and take the necessary security precautions.

Education

HEAD START: Head Start promotes school readiness of children under the age of five from low-income families through education, health, social and other services. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for \$10.8 billion in the bill, an increase of \$150 million above last year's enacted level.

K-12 EDUCATION: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for and helped secure over \$170 billion in funding for K-12 schools. These funds aid local schools

which serve high concentrations of children from low-income families, increase academic achievement by improving teacher and principal quality, serves students who are English Language Learners, and supports the creation of community learning centers for afterschool activities for children.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING:

Rep. Mucarsel-Powell led the effort to secure \$172 million in funding for the social and emotional learning (SEL) and development of students from kindergarten through high school. Students exposed to SEL show increased academic achievement and improved behavior. Her bill with Rep. Tim Ryan, the SELF Act, also passed as part of this package, providing further SEL resources to teachers and educators to help children with their social and emotional development.

HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS

(HSIs): HSIs play a crucial role in addressing the education gap, enrolling 66 percent of the 3.5 million Hispanic college students. Despite serving such a vital role in education, HSIs continue to be underfunded, receiving only 68 cents for every dollar going to all colleges and universities annually per student. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell advocated for an increase in funding to \$155 million for HSIs in this bill, \$12 million above last year's enacted level.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs):

HBCUs operate with the principal mission of educating Black Americans and uplifting Black American communities. Today, HBCUs are more important than ever – they offer lower average tuition costs, meeting the needs of low-income and first-generation students, and work to lower wealth disparity along racial lines. Rep. Mucarsel-Powell supported \$344 million for HBCUs, an increase of \$19 million above last year's enacted level.